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- (c) charging said surfactant paste into a high speed mixer/densifier;
 - (d) inputting from about 1% to about 70% by weight of a detergency builder into said high speed mixer/densifier; and
 - (e) agglomerating said surfactant paste and said builder by treating said surfactant paste and said builder initially in said high speed mixer/densifier and subsequently in a moderate speed mixer/densifier so as to form said detergent agglomerates.
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11. (Once Amended) A process for preparing detergent agglomerates comprising the steps of:
- (a) providing a non-linear viscoelastic surfactant paste including, by weight of said surfactant paste, from about 70% to 80% of a mixture of C₁₄₋₁₅ alkyl sulfate surfactant and C₁₂₋₁₃ linear alkylbenzene sulfonate surfactant, from about 15% to about 20% of water, from about 2% to about 8% of polyethylene glycol, and from about 0.5% to about 1% of sodium hydroxide such that the pH of said surfactant paste is at least about 11, and wherein said surfactant paste is substantially free of materials which produce a gas when reacted with an acid, said materials being carbonates, percarbonates and perborates;
 - (b) regulating the temperature of said surfactant paste within a range of from about 65°C to about 70°C so that said surfactant paste is processable and stable for at least 120 hours;
 - (c) charging from about 25% to about 65% by weight of said surfactant paste into a high speed mixer/densifier;
 - (d) inputting from about 1% to about 70% by weight of a detergency builder into said high speed mixer/densifier;
 - (e) agglomerating said surfactant paste and said builder by treating said surfactant paste and said builder initially in said high speed mixer/densifier and subsequently in a moderate speed mixer/densifier so as to form said detergent agglomerates; and
 - (f) drying said detergent agglomerates.
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REMARKS

I. Claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 1-16 were rejected as being obvious over Welch et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,574,005). The Examiner states that Welch et al. teach that a high active viscoelastic paste requires an additional amount or buffer amount of carbonate and/or hydroxide so as to maintain its storage and transport stability. In response, the Applicants state that Welch et al. teach away from the present invention and do not appreciate the key feature of this invention, i.e., that the surfactant paste is substantially free of materials which produce a gas when reacted with an acid, the materials being carbonates, percarbonates and perborates. This limitation is now included in the amended claims 1 and 11. Support for this limitation is found in claim 2 (now canceled) and also in the Applicants' originally filed specification, on page 7, first full paragraph wherein the Applicants state that "*Furthermore it is preferable that the surfactant paste be substantially free of materials which produces a gas when reacted with an acid. Such materials include carbonates, percarbonates, perborates or any other*